



# WSRCC Newsletter

**Celebrating Its First Anniversary!**

<http://www.elpasotexas.gov/police/documents/WSRCCNewsletter.pdf>



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## Commander's Corner

By Cmdr. Cliff Walsh

[WalshC@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:WalshC@elpasotexas.gov)



I hope this e-mail brings holiday cheer, safe tidings, and prosperity for all. Pride day was a great success and the Westside looks cleaner because of it. A cleaner neighborhood promotes crime reduction and personal safety and our continued vigilance will insure the Westside remains a safe and prosperous community!

The holiday season is in full swing and deserves some much needed attention. Keep criminals from enjoying YOUR personal belongings and gifts intended for your loved ones by keeping your car locked and valuables out of sight! A criminal who sees valuables or newly purchased merchandise in your car is like catching Ole Saint Nick red-

handed by your Christmas tree on Christmas Eve...Criminals want what you have. As always... it is a classic case of "the haves versus the have-nots".

Here's wishing everyone a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## WSRCC Police Roles: D.A.R.T. Domestic Abuse Response Team

Ofc. Carol Garcia  
D.A.R.T., WSRCC  
[GarciaC@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:GarciaC@elpasotexas.gov)

### What Is a Protective Order?

A protective order is a civil court order issued in cases where family violence has occurred, that seeks to prevent continuing acts of family violence and is enforceable by arrest and prosecution for the crime of violation of a protective order.

A protective order can prohibit the abuser from:

- Committing further acts of family violence.
- Communicating with the victim or a member of the family or household in a threatening or harassing manner.
- Going within 200 yards of a protected person or address
- Engaging in conduct likely to alarm, annoy, abuse, embarrass or torment the victim, including stalking.

### Who is Eligible to Get a Protective Order?

Victims of family violence who are either:

- Related to the abuser by blood or marriage.
- Currently living with the abuser or have lived with the abuser in the past or
- Parents of the same child, even if the parents are not married or living together.

### How Long Does It Take To Receive A Protective Order?

The victim may first apply for a temporary protective order, which is effective for up to 14 days. It may take anywhere from 3 to 48 hours to obtain the temporary protective order.

Once the temporary order is obtained, a final hearing will be scheduled within 14 days. This hearing may either be continued for another 14 days if the abuser is not located, or an order may be entered that is effective for up to two (2) years.

### What Happens If the Protective Order is Violated?

CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY!! Always keep a copy of your protective order on your person. If a protective order is violated, the police will immediately arrest the abuser and the abuser will be prosecuted for the crime of violation of a protective order and any other crime that may be committed.

### How Can I Get A Protective Order?

Apply for a protective order through the El Paso County Attorney's Office, 500 E. San Antonio, County Courthouse, Room 503, El Paso, Texas, Telephone # (915) 546-2050 or through a private attorney. Generally, you must apply in the county where you or the abuser live.

# Patrol's Perspective: Day Shift

By Lt. Bobby Lane  
Day Shift Patrol, WSRCC  
[LaneB@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:LaneB@elpasotexas.gov)

The approaching holiday season brings thoughts of relaxation, fun, family gatherings, and gifts. At the same time, it brings the stress of shopping malls, spending money on presents, eating too much food, and dealing with heavy traffic. Sometimes holidays can take a toll on you physically and emotionally. As you prepare for the holiday adventures, make safety a priority. A 'safety state of mind' is important both on and off the job. Don't let holiday excitement and stress catch you off guard.

## Personal Safety

Whether you are hanging colored lights on the roof, carrying a Christmas tree, or shoveling snow, be aware of the risks. Don't overreach from ladders. Remember to lift with your legs and take

breaks when you need them. You don't want to miss out on the holidays because you're in the emergency room.

## Electrical Safety

Lights are meant to decorate but they can endanger you and your home. Don't run electrical cords under rugs or carpets. Keep all electrical appliances away from wet surfaces. Match plugs to outlets and don't overload electrical circuits. Unplug Christmas lights when you leave home and before you go to bed.

## Fire Safety

Place decorations and trees away from heat sources. Be especially careful where you place candles, and keep them out of reach of children. Don't smoke around decorations, trees, or wrapping paper. Never use lights on metallic artificial trees. Make sure your family members and guests know what to do in case of a fire. Test your smoke and

carbon monoxide detectors to verify that they are working properly.

## Child Safety

Children are a big part of the holidays—whether you have them or not. Select gifts with safety in mind. Be sure toys are age appropriate. Keep floors and stairs clutter-free. When traveling, use all necessary child safety restraints. Keep in mind that the neighborhood kids like to play outdoors with their new toys, bikes, or skates; check behind you before you back out of the driveway.

## Auto Safety

Because roads and freeways become crowded with holiday traffic, you must drive defensively. Allow for extra travel time. Have a designated driver assigned before you leave for a party. If you are hosting a party, don't let a guest drink and then drive home. Always buckle up. Patience can work wonders to avoid traffic accidents.



## Crime Prevention Corner

By Ofc. Joe Milian  
Crime Prevention, WSRCC  
[MilianJ@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:MilianJ@elpasotexas.gov)

With the holidays rapidly approaching, everyone will be out shopping for that "perfect" gift. During this holiday season, we ask you to be safe and aware of your surroundings when out shopping.

First and foremost, it is important for you to be aware of all activity going on around you. Are there suspicious people around? Is there an escape route if something should happen? Are there people who can help? Thinking things through beforehand will help you if any disastrous events should happen.

There are also a number of safety tips that you can use to avoid placing yourself in one of these situations.

- Lock your car and keep merchandise in the trunk, out of sight.
- Park in well-lit areas, and try not to walk into a dark parking lot alone.
- Try to shop with a "buddy" or carry a whistle.
- Don't display large amounts of cash or place wallets on countertops while waiting for change.
- Watch your small children carefully when shopping, either in your sight or by hand.
- Don't load yourself down with packages, it is safer to make several trips so as to keep your hands free.
- Be aware that someone could be watching for you to load your packages and return to the stores
- Pretend that you are leaving and move to another location.
- Have your keys in hand before heading to the parking lot.
- Weekdays are safest to shop; don't forget to lock your house with some lights on.
- If possible, avoid carrying purses. If you do, avoid carrying large amount of cash.
- Try and do all your shopping at one location.
- Never leave items in plain view inside your vehicle.

We at the WSRCC would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

## Desalination ([www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org))

By Ofc. Curtis Whitener  
Community Services, WSRCC  
[WhitenerC@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:WhitenerC@elpasotexas.gov)

El Paso Water Utilities and Fort Bliss officials are collaborating to build the country's largest inland desalination plant. The plant will draw brackish water from an underground aquifer that provides about 40 percent of El Paso's municipal water supply.

### Why didn't El Paso plan for and build a desalination plant years ago?

El Paso Water Utilities first began to consider the construction of a desalination plant in the late 1980s. However, because of the tremendous added cost, it has only been recently that

technology and competition has improved and the costs reduced to make desalination more feasible.

While there are other major desalination plants already in operation, they exist next to oceans and not in desert environments. These plants can dispose of their brine, a salty wastewater bi-product, by releasing it back into the ocean. The Ft. Bliss/EPWU desalination project, now underway, will produce about 2.5 million gallons of brine a day. The two options available for the disposal of this brine are in evaporation ponds or by injecting it into deep wells. Both options are expensive.

Additionally, seawater provides an inexpensive, stable source of water for desalination plants. The Ft. Bliss/EPWU plant must pump brackish water from underground. This has required extensive geological studies to establish the correct sites for the wells to supply the desalination plant. Planning for the plant has been extensive and has included studies that ensure our fresh water sources will not be compromised.

When complete, this large \$67 million dollar plant will be the first of its kind in the world.

## A Special Thanks To Our Community Sponsors

By Ofc. Curtis Whitener  
Community Services, WSRCC  
[WhitenerC@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:WhitenerC@elpasotexas.gov)

I wanted to give a special thanks and acknowledgment to our community sponsors who helped to fuel the Tenth Annual Pride Day Clean-up held on November 6, 2004. This grass roots event addressed the results of illegal dumping within the Westside of town. Our department believes by establishing and hosting community clean-up events such as Pride Day, the quality of life improves. Oftentimes, people will prejudice or assign a morality standard to a community based on the degree of decay, trash, and blight observed.

El Paso was recently voted the second safest city in the Nation and we attribute this accomplishment to our strong partnership with the community

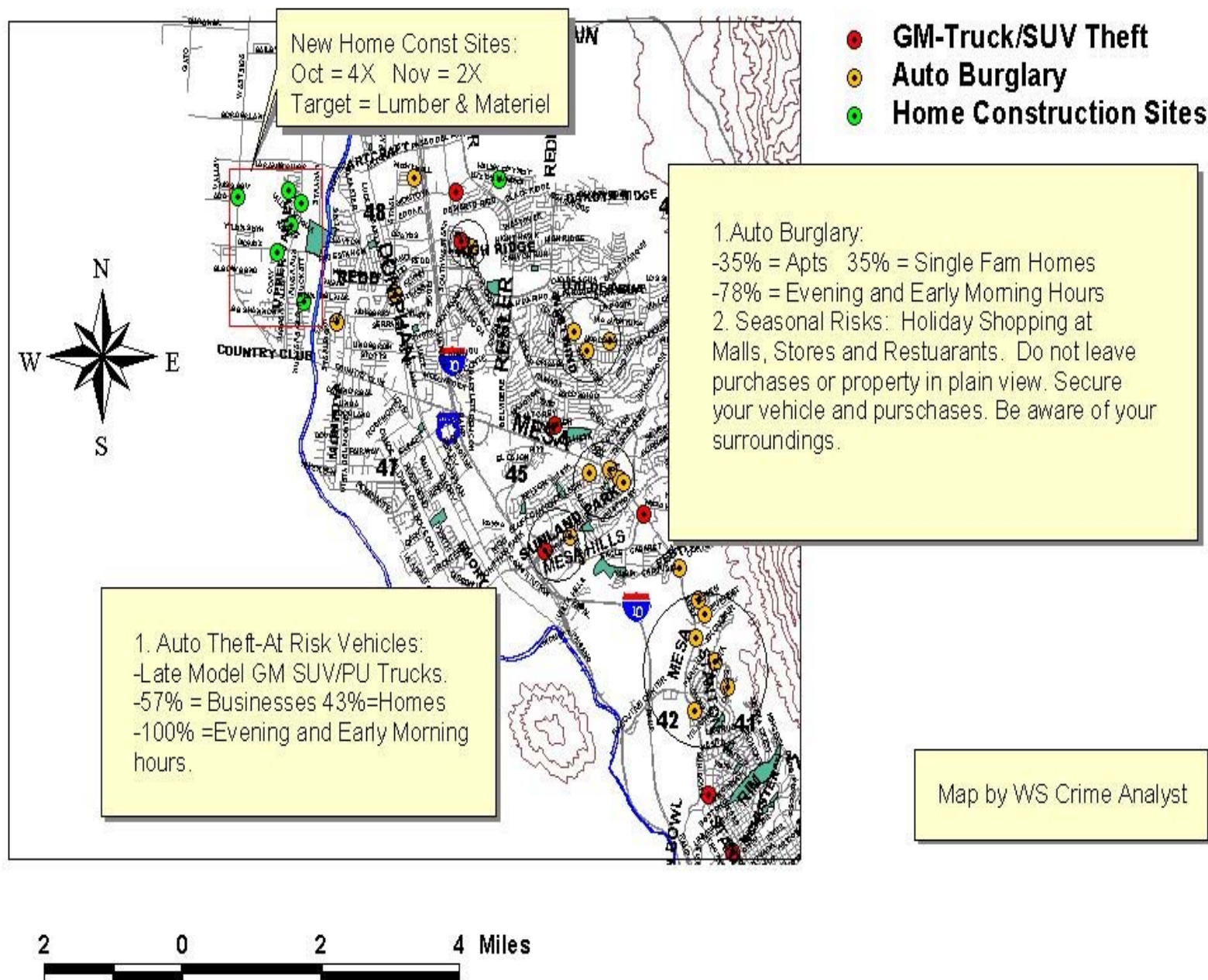
in reducing crime and improving the quality of life. The contributors named herein stepped forward in our station's time of need and are considered special partners of the 2004 Pride Day Clean-up:

- Susan Austin, Westside City Representative
- Expressway Ford, 5550 North Desert
- Geogeske, 2701 North Stanton
- Westside Home Depot
- Mrs. Mary Mattingly, (NARFE)
- Mr. Brad Peevy
- Rainbow Breads
- Sam's, Westside
- Shamaley Ford, 11301 Gateway West
- Sierra West Airlines 479-3777
- Sunland Park Pontiac, Buick, GMC, 955 Crockett
- Western Technical Institute



## WSRCC Crime Map

# WS Crime Review 11/01-11/17/04



**Burglary** – The act of breaking and entering into a dwelling or vehicle with the intent to commit a crime.

**Theft** – The stealing of someone else's property.

## Westside's B.O.L.O (Be On The Lookout)

If you have any information on the whereabouts of these individuals, please contact the El Paso Police Department.



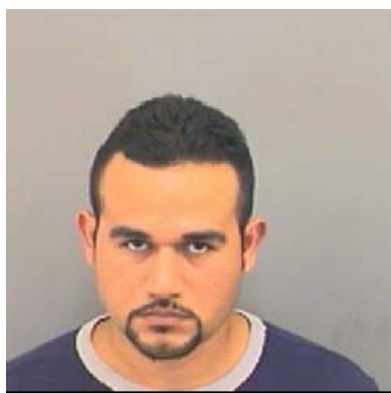
**Ramiro Lopez**  
DOB: 12-21-83  
Offense: Assault

**No  
Picture  
Available**

**Willie Espinoza**  
DOB: 07-07-86  
Offense: Multiple  
Burglary of Vehicles



**Mark Thompson**  
DOB: 04-22-85  
Offense: Assault



**Jorge Frayre**  
DOB: 09-26-77  
Offense: Assault

**No  
Picture  
Available**

**Adan Fuentes**  
DOB: 12-19-74  
Offense: Assault

## WSRCC



4801 Osborne  
El Paso, Texas  
79922  
(915) 585-6100

Patrol Desk.....585-6100

Investigations..585-6150

Traffic..... 585-6041

P.A.R./Community  
Services/Crime  
Prevention.....585-6159

TAC.....585-6079

J.I.S.....585-6069

D.A.R.T.....585-6123

## WSRCC Newsletter 17 Staff

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Lt. Bobby Lane  
Sgt. Woodrow Bare  
WSRCC P.A.R.

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Asst. Editor:  
Ofc. Curtis Whitener

Consultant:  
Mrs. Melody Whitener

Contributors:  
Ofc. Carol Garcia  
Ofc. Allen Edington  
Mr. Steve Holguin

## Off Beat

**Name:** Allen L. Edington

**Age:** 34

**Educational Background:**

Assoc. of Applied Science in  
Law Enforcement

**Number of years as a Police  
Officer:** 6 1/2

**Current unit assignment:**  
WSRCC Patrol, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift

**Why I became a police officer:**  
To protect and serve.

**Views On Education:**

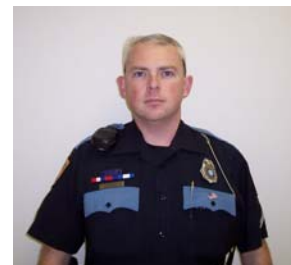
Education is the key to changes  
you wish to make in your life.  
Very little can be accomplished

without education. I believe so  
deep in this that I became a  
police instructor and received my  
certification through the State of  
Texas so that I could attempt to  
assist others in this pursuit.

**Goals in my personal life:** To  
be the best I can be in whatever I  
attempt to do, as long as I know I  
have given my personal best, no  
matter the outcome, I have met  
my goals.

Off duty hobbies: Reading,  
developing new lesson plans,  
researching areas of interest in  
police use of force.

**The hardest lesson I have  
learned about my life:** Politics  
play more of a role in our lives  
than we want to think.



WSRCC Officer  
Allen Edington

## Westside Officer Runs 51-Mile Trail Race

Officer Curtis Whitener is the  
Community Service Officer for  
the Westside Station. Those that  
know him recognize that he  
really enjoys running. On  
November 13, 2004, Ofc. Curtis  
Whitener embarked upon his  
hardest trail run yet: Mesquite,  
New Mexico's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Tupper  
Mine 24-Hour Run, 51-mile, and  
50Km event.

This was a no entry fee, low-  
key, and serious run according to  
El Paso Race Organizer and  
Ultra-Runner, Mark Dorion.  
Mark further mentioned, "You  
will likely see more wildlife  
(snakes, deer, cows, javelinas,  
skunks, rabbits, and yes, possibly  
mountain lion) than other runners  
or trail users. The cactus and  
brush along the trail are thick and  
sharp. Injuries are a very real  
possibility."

The morning of Saturday  
November 13<sup>th</sup> was cold, windy  
and raining. Many of the runners  
scheduled to participate chose  
not to attend. Officer Curtis  
Whitener was about to embark  
upon a full day of running. The

course record for last year's  
event was 13 hours and 14  
minutes. Many would suggest  
that's a slow 50-mile time  
(13:14), but when one factors in  
the rocky trails, climbs, and  
seemingly never ending wave of  
energy sapping desert arroyos, 13  
hours and 14 minutes was quite  
respectable.

Curtis Whitener recalled  
hoping on a multitude of factors  
in order to finish this year's 51-  
mile course. He was worried  
about the threat of rain and wind  
chill. He understood how  
crucially important pace would  
play to finish, and of course the  
tremendous mental and physical  
effort to cross the finish line.

As he ran through the course,  
Officer Whitener coped with the  
uncomfortable effects of running  
by thinking about gratitude;  
gratitude for every step, gratitude  
for his home, his family, his  
health, and the sincere kindness  
of others. "I counted gratitude  
for hours," said Officer  
Whitener.

Several hours (of course)  
were run at night. "It's an eerie  
feeling running in near total  
darkness with the aid of two  
flashlights. My whole world, my  
existence, seemed to subsist  
within the beams of my  
headlamp and handheld  
flashlight," explained Ofc.  
Whitener.

Crossing the finish line in the  
dark at 14 hours and 35 minutes  
came with it the feeling of almost  
disbelief. The magnitude of it all  
took time to sink in.

"Running is all about  
meditation for me; some days I  
meditate better than others," says  
Whitener. "It's a freedom I share  
with myself and the byproduct is  
physical fitness." What lessons  
were learned from this ultra-  
marathon: run in the present,  
don't be overly hard on ourselves  
mentally, dress warmly, and  
remember, "it's not a race, it's a  
pace."